and Uttar Pradesh as market prices in these states stabilised above MSP. However, purchases in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are still in progress as prices of groundnut in certain centres in these states are ruling below MSP.

The state-wise purchases of groundnut pods under the scheme during last two years are given as under:

Qty.inMT

State	Kharif, 2000 Rabi 2001	Kharif, 2001
Gujarat	—	1,16,145
Rajasthan	—	27,794
Andhra Pradesh	28,099	14,128
Karnataka	609	2,651
Uttar Pradesh	—	2,020
Orissa	427	—
TOTAL	29,135	1,62,738

Crop Insurance

1336. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan has been formulated to provide crop insurance for two crore farmers during the next five years, to cover the farmers suffering losses due to natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the phased annual programmes to cover the number of farmers, the sum for which they would be insured and the premium to be paid by them and/or subsidy to be extended by the Central Government/States to reduce their burden; and

(c) the norms/formulae laid down, if any, to determine the losses and to compensate farmers in the event of natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Schemes (NAIS) was introduced in the country with effect from Rabi 1999-2000. The scheme is voluntary for the States/Union Territories. Therefore, only 21 States/UTs have opted in favour of the scheme. Again NAIS is optional

for non-loanee farmers. Therefore, specific target for the coverage of farmers have not been fixed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Scheme is implemented on area basis. On the basis of the yield data furnished by the State Governments, if the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for the defined area during the season falls short of specified threshold yield, all insured fanners growing that crop in the defined areas are deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and become elegible for payment of claims. The claims are released to banks and the banks in turn credit the amount in the account of the beneficiary farmers.

Suicide by Farmers in A.P.

1337. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 638 farmers had committed suicide during the last three years in 20 districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of an estimated 490 farmers who committed suicide in the country during 2001-2002, 385 belonged to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, what have been the causes of their suicide; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to tackle their problems on immediate basis and big scale too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) According to information furnished by the State Government, 358 farmers committed suicide during December, 1997 to December, 1998,5 farmers during 1999-2000 and 22 farmers during 2000-01, in the State of Andhra Pradesh. No report has been received from the State Government regarding suicides by farmers during 2001-02. The main reasons for such suicides have been attributed in reports of the State Government to failure of crops and indebtedness.

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the matter. As per report of the State Government, measures such as improvement of credit facilities, setting up of Agricultural